

NW., Suite 1020, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 833-9339 (phone); (202) 833-9434 (fax); or <http://www.rtca.org> (web site). Members of the public may present a written statement to the committee at any time.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 3, 1999.

Janice L. Peters,

Designated Official.

[FR Doc. 99-3284 Filed 2-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Desha County, Arkansas and Bolivar County, Mississippi

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that a supplemental draft environmental impact statement will be prepared for a proposed highway/rail crossing of the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Desha County, Arkansas and Bolivar County, Mississippi.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elizabeth Romero, Environmental Specialist, Arkansas Division, Federal Highway Administration, 700 West Capitol, 3130 Federal Building, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-3298, Telephone: (501) 324-5625.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department and the Mississippi Department of Transportation, will prepare a supplemental draft environmental impact statement (SDEIS) for a proposal to construct a highway/rail crossing of the Mississippi River between Desha County, Arkansas and Bolivar County, Mississippi.

A Phase I feasibility study determined that a bridge in this vicinity would have a positive economic impact on this area of the lower Mississippi River delta region by providing regional mobility, promoting development, and providing both short and long term economic stimulus. The SDEIS is an amendment of a Draft EIS dated October, 1996.

The proposed action, including new roadway segments, would extend from a western terminus at U.S. 65 in the vicinity of Dumas, Winchester, and McGehee, Arkansas to an eastern terminus on State Highway 8 near Rosedale and Cleveland Mississippi.

The total project distance is approximately 47.4-72.6 km (29.5-45 miles).

All alternatives contained in the 1996 Draft EIS are still under consideration and include: the "No Build" Alternative and Alternatives 1-4. Alternative 1 begins at U.S. 65 north of Dumas, Arkansas, proceeds east to cross Big Island and the Mississippi River, and ends at Mississippi Highway 8 east of Rosedale, Mississippi. Alternative 2 begins at U.S. 65 north of Dumas, Arkansas, proceeds east to cross the Mississippi River south of Big Island, and ends at Mississippi Highway 8 east of Rosedale, Mississippi. Alternative 3 begins at U.S. 65 just north of Winchester, Arkansas, proceeds east to cross Big Island and the Mississippi River, and ends at Mississippi Highway 8 east of Rosedale, Mississippi. Alternative 4 begins at U.S. 65 just north of Winchester, Arkansas, proceeds east to cross the Mississippi River south of Big Island, and ends at Mississippi Highway 8 east of Rosedale, Mississippi. The SDEIS will include a new Alternative that is proposed to extend from a western terminus at U.S. 65 in the vicinity of McGehee, Arkansas, cross the Mississippi River near Arkansas City, Arkansas, and continue to an eastern terminus on State Highway 8 near Rosedale and Cleveland Mississippi.

This SDEIS will also consider the secondary and cumulative effects that could result from a possible future decision to locate I-69/Corridor 18 selected Great River Bridge alignment in this area. However, this document will not determine the location of the proposed I-69 alignment and will not preclude the consideration of other Mississippi River crossings in future I-69/Corridor 18 studies.

The SDEIS is being prepared in response to comments from resource and regulatory agencies expressing concerns about the potential impacts to fish and wildlife, vegetation, water quality, the "Big Woods", and Wildlife Management Areas, and about the implications of I-69 using this proposed new route. To address these concerns, the SDEIS will study the new alternative described above that was recommended by several commentors as an alternative that may avoid many of the areas of concern and minimize impacts. Also noted above, the potential use of this route by I-69 will be studied for all alternatives.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies and to private organizations, including conservation groups and

groups of individuals who have previously expressed interest in the project. A formal scoping meeting will be held with appropriate local, State, and Federal agencies. Public involvement sessions and public hearing(s) will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the public involvement sessions and the public hearing(s). The SDEIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing(s). To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the Supplemental Draft EIS should be directed to the FHWA at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation of federal programs and activities apply to this program)

Kenneth A. Perret,

Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Little Rock, Arkansas.

[FR Doc. 99-3199 Filed 2-9-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century; Implementation Guidance for the Interstate Highway Reconstruction/ Rehabilitation Pilot Program; Solicitation for Candidate Proposals

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document publishes implementation guidance for section 1216(b) of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). Section 1216(b) established a pilot program under which the Secretary may permit a State to convert a free highway, bridge, or tunnel on the Interstate System to a toll facility where reconstruction or rehabilitation of the facility could not happen without the collection of tolls. This document also calls for submission of proposals for consideration under the pilot program and describes eligible Interstate facilities, application requirements, selection criteria, and the submission process.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For pilot program: Mr. Jim Overton, HNG-10, Office of Engineering, (202) 366-4653; For legal issues: Mr. Steven